On the March

A COMPANION FOR
SOLDIERS & SAILORS
ON ACTIVE SERVICE

DERBY
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HARWOOD
PRINTER
STATIONER
DERBY

Dedication.

To our Soldiers and Sailors.

Our country is unhappily engaged in a great and terrible war, the greatest war that has ever afflicted humanity. You are taking part in it with a courage, a heroism, that have never been surpassed. You are offering the sacrifice of your lives on your country's altar with a wonderful spirit of loyalty and cheerfulness. You are engaging your strength and life in the cause of freedom and righteousness. We, your fellow-countrymen and women, owe you our endless gratitude and admiration. For our sakes you are facing danger, suffering, death.

In the letters that have appeared in the newspapers from "men at the front" one often-repeated feature has been noticed. It is the fact that in moments of great danger the prayer for Divine help springs instinctively to the lips of men. One soldier, for example, describing his first experience under fire, writes: "Thank God, I pulled safely through. I must have had somebody's prayers. I know I said mine a few times. I hope I continue to do so." Many other soldiers have had the same feelings and felt the same need.

This fact has suggested the preparation of this little book of devotional selections and prayers. It has been compiled in the hope that it may bring some help and comfort to you and your friends in your time of strain and trouble.

To you, therefore, it is dedicated.

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J Serve.

OUR KING.

Fear God: honour the king.

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King!

O Lord our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers upon the earth: Most heartily we beseech Thee with Thy favour to behold our most gracious sovereign, King George; and so replenish him with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that he may always incline to Thy will, and walk in Thy way. Endue him plenteously with heavenly gifts: grant him in health and wealth long to live: strengthen him that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally, after this life, may he attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MORNING.

Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us.

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

The path of the just is as the light of the dawn, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Now with creation's morning song,
  Let us, the children of the day,
With wakened heart and purpose strong
  The works of darkness cast away.

O may the morn, so pure, so clean,
  Its own sweet calm in us instil;
A guileless mind, a heart sincere,
  Simplicity of word and will.

Grant us, O God, in love to Thee,
  Clear eyes to measure things below,
Faith, the invisible to see,
  And wisdom, Thee in all to know.

O Lord our God, we thank Thee who has protected us through the darkness and brought us to the light of another day. We pray that we may pass this day without sin. Keep us steadfast in the duties, and patient in the trials which it may bring. May we follow in the way marked out by Jesus Christ. And when the evening comes may we say in our hearts, The Lord hath been with us this day. Amen.

EVENING.

Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, the Lord's name is to be praised.

Behold, He that keepeth us will neither slumber nor sleep.

Be not far from me, O Lord my God: be Thou my strong refuge: O my God, make haste to help me. In Thee do I put my trust.

God that madest earth and heaven,
    Darkness and light!
Who the day for toil hast given,
    For rest the night!
May Thine angel-guard defend us,
Slumber sweet Thy mercy send us!
Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
    This live-long night.

O Thou, who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, on whom alone, while all around us changeth, we may lean with perfect trust, grant us Thy peace this eventime. May we feel Thy everlasting arms around us and sleep and be refreshed in safety. But whatever may betide us in the hours of darkness, may we still believe that Thy love faileth not. May we still rest in faith on Thee, Our Father and our God. Amen.

OUR COUNTRY.

O bless our God, ye people: and make the voice of His praise to be heard.

WHERE there is no vision, the people perish.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

Now pray we for our country,
That England long may be
The holy, and the happy,
And the gloriously free.
Who blesseth her is blessed!
So peace be in her walls;
And joy in all her palaces,
Her cottages and halls.

Almighty God, in whose hands are the destinies of the nations: we pray Thee to bless our country, and to lead her in the way of honour and righteousness, and of true and enduring prosperity. Thou, Lord, hast given us a place among the mighty nations of the world. May we be faithful to the trust Thou hast laid upon us May we be strong in wisdom and steadfast in purity and be ministers of Thy justice and mercy. May we be brave, as our fathers were, in our devotion to liberty and our hatred of oppression. May we follow after all that makes for the true greatness of our country, and live in loyalty to Thee, the Heavenly King and Sovereign Lord of all. Amen.

HOME AND FRIENDS.

Let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents ; for that is good and acceptable before God.

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

There is a spot of earth supremely blest,
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest.

Home, home, sweet home ;
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

God bless the homes of England,
Oh ! hallowed may they stand :
May peace and love within them dwell
Throughout our happy land.

Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not.

Whoso feareth the Lord shall direct his friendship aright ; for as he is, so shall his neighbour be also.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

God be with you till we meet again !
Though the world assail, deceive you,
May His mercy never leave you :
God be with you till we meet again !

God be with you till we meet again !
Through life's toil and danger bear you,
For our heavenly home prepare you :
God be with you till we meet again.

O God of love, we thank Thee for our homes and home-blessings, for our friends and all the pure pleasures of social intercourse ; for those who love us, and for those whom we love. Bless them abundantly, above all we can ask or think. Help us to love each other in Thee, and for Thee, and to be one in heart, even though the seas divide us. Lead us together to that world where love is perfect and immortal. Amen.

THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

And He said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

In the Cross of Christ I glory,
  Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
  Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
  Hopes deceive and fears annoy,
Never shall the Cross forsake me,—
  Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
  Light and love upon my way,
From the Cross the radiance streaming
  Adds more lustre to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
  By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
  Joys that through all time abide.

In the Cross of Christ I glory,
  Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
  Gathers round its head sublime.

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.

He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me, and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

If Jesus be with thee, no enemy shall be able to hurt thee.

He that findeth Jesus findeth good treasure; yea, a good above all good.

Poor indeed is he who liveth without Jesus; and he truly rich who is well with Jesus.

O Thou great Friend to all the sons of men,
Who once appeared in humble guise below,
Sin to rebuke, to break the captive's chain,
And call Thy brethren forth from want and woe!

We look to Thee; Thy Truth is still the Light
Which guides the nations, groping on their way,
Stumbling and falling in disastrous night,
Yet hoping ever for the perfect day.

Yes! Thou art still the Life; Thou art the Way
The holiest know—Light, Life, and Way of heaven!
And they who dearest hope, and deepest pray,
Toil by the Light, Life, Way, which Thou hast given.

O God, who didst send into the world Thy Holy Son, Jesus Christ, to bring glad tidings of Thy love, and to proclaim the kingdom of heaven: give us, we pray Thee, a wise understanding of the truths He taught, and humble obedience to the law of love which He set forth in His words and life. May our reverence for His purity and holiness be a strong shield against the powers of evil; and may our love for Him and devotion to His gospel be fruitful in good works, in pure desires, and in perfect trust in Thee. May He be to us the Way, the Truth, and the Life, now and always. Amen.

FAITH.

Cast all your care on God! That anchor holds.

THE Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Wherefore, seeing we also are encompassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race which is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

O God, our Father of mercies, in Thee do we put our trust. Amid all the troubles of life we would rest on Thy unchanging love. In faith and confidence we give up ourselves to Thy keeping and guidance; and would pray, Thy will be done on earth as in heaven: in the spirit of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

TEMPTATION.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation.

FLEE from sin as from the face of a serpent; for if thou comest too near it, it will bite thee: the teeth thereof are as the teeth of a lion, slaying the souls of men.

Resist thine inclination in the very beginning, lest perhaps by little and little it draw thee to greater difficulty.

If we would put a stop to the beginning of sin, we must begin where sin begins, in the heart and thoughts.

Avoid the company of the person thou art in danger of; this thou canst do, if thou art willing; none will force thee. If thou wilt go seek for a thief, no wonder if thou be robbed.

Go not Thou far from me, O God; make haste, my God, to help me: for there have risen up against me divers thoughts, and great fears, afflicting my soul. How shall I pass through unhurt? how shall I break them to pieces? This is my hope, my one only consolation, to flee unto Thee in every tribulation, to trust in Thee, to call upon Thee from my inmost heart, and to wait patiently for Thy consolation.

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE TEMPLE OF GOD.

Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Have a due care of your bodies, that no distemper be cherished in them which causeth the distemper of the soul.

Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: which taketh away the righteousness of the righteous from him.

Self-indulgence deprives a man of everything that might make him great.

They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the spirit the things of the spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled therein; and he that hath fellowship with the wicked shall be like unto him.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; He shall preserve thy soul.

O God Almighty, we, Thy frail children, pray Thee to deliver us from all evil and impure thoughts and desires, and from slavery to appetite and passion. Increase our love of Thee, till it overcome our weakness and save us from every indulgence that would destroy the soul. May we die unto sin and live only unto Thee, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SELF-CONSECRATION.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Be ye followers of God, as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.

Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Commit thy way unto the Lord. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. In all thy ways acknowledge Him: and He shall direct thy paths.

My beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Teach me, my God and King,
  Thy will in all to see;
And what I do in anything,
  To do it as for Thee!

To scorn the senses' sway,
  While still to Thee I tend:
In all I do, be Thou the way;
  In all, be Thou the end.

All may of Thee partake:
  Nothing so small can be
But draws, when acted for Thy sake,
  Greatness and worth from Thee.

If done beneath Thy laws,
  E'en servile labours shine;
Hallowed is toil, if this the cause;
  The meanest work, divine.

Almighty and Eternal God, we beseech Thee to inspire our hearts so that we may devote ourselves more eagerly to Thy service, in thought, word, and deed. Strengthen us with the sense of Thy continual presence. Bestow upon us the spirit of faith and courage, so that we may be brave to stand for the right and serve only our Master, Jesus. Let us now consecrate our lives anew to Thee, so that we may love Thee above all and be obedient to Thy holy will. Amen.

DUTY.

Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

WHAT doth the Lord require of Thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report—if there be any virtue—if there be any praise—think on these things.

Courage, brother, do not stumble,
  Though thy path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble:
  "Trust in God, and do the right."

Though the road be long and dreary,
  And the end be out of sight,
Foot it bravely—strong or weary;
  "Trust in God, and do the right."

To duty firm, to conscience true,
  However tried and pressed,
In God's clear sight high work we do,
  If we but do our best.

Thus may we make the lowliest lot
  With rays of glory bright;
Thus may we turn a crown of thorns
  Into a crown of light.

O blessed and eternal God, enable us to understand and make use of all the proper helps of duty; and kindle in our souls a flame of devotion which no difficulty or contradiction, no infirmity within or persecution without, may ever extinguish. Give us grace that we may ask first what is Thy good pleasure, follow the best examples, do the noblest charities; ever pressing forward to the mark of our high calling in Jesus Christ. Grant that we may keep watch against the omission of any part of our duty. Help us to do our work faithfully and to spend our lives in Thy service. Amen.

"England expects that every man this day will do his duty."

THE NARROW WAY.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart.

Let thine eyes look straight on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Remove thy feet from evil. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

Better not be at all than not be noble.

Enter ye at the straight gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Come, labour on!
The toil is pleasant, the reward is sure;
Blessed are those who to the end endure;
How full their joy, how deep their rest shall be,
O Lord, with Thee!

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of Thy name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE.

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

My brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

My soul, be on thy guard:
  Ten thousand foes arise;
The hosts of sin are pressing hard
  To draw thee from the skies.
Oh, watch and fight and pray!
  The battle ne'er give o'er;
Renew it boldly every day,
  And help divine implore.

Eternal God of love and power, who givest courage to the weak and strength to the faithful, give us grace so that we may at all times contend for righteousness and justice. Defend us against every evil. Help us to fight the good fight against every wickedness, within our own hearts or in the world around us. Grant us power to wield faithfully the sword of the Spirit: that we may be true servants of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE

TRIUMPH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.

SHOW us Thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us Thy salvation.

Fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool. But My righteousness shall be for ever, and My salvation from generation to generation.

All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord, and shall glorify Thy name.

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of *Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men.*

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With *Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men.*"

Workman of God! O lose not heart,
But learn what God is like;
And in the darkest battle-field
Thou shalt know where to strike.

For right is right, since God is God;
And right the day must win;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin.

O God, almighty and all-wise, we pray Thee for the speedy triumph of Thy spirit of righteousness over the evil and selfishness of the world. Give us strength so that, through our pure lives and loving service, we may do something to help forward the coming of Thy kingdom. May we always contend for the right, and, if need be, suffer for it. Comfort and help us when we are weak-hearted. Lift us up when we fall. Help us to live and die in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PERILS OF THE SEA.

They that go down to the sea in ships; that do business in great waters: these see the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep.

For He commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind; which lifteth up the waves thereof.

Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He bringeth them out of their distresses.

He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bids't the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,
And gave, for wild confusion, peace;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Lord our God, the God of love and merey, Thou art with us in our peaceful homes and on the pathless waters. We pray Thee to guide and guard those who go down to the seas in ships and are exposed to the perils of the deep. Protect them from all the dangers that threaten them. Help them to control their thoughts and feelings and find an enduring consolation in the knowledge of Thy constant presence. May their trust always be stronger than their fears. May they be brought back, in due time, in comfort and safety, to bless Thy name and confess Thy merciful and tender care. Amen.

DIVINE FORGIVENESS.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us.

BLESSED is he whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered.

Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in Thee. I acknowledge my sin unto Thee; and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, "I will confess my transgression unto the Lord," and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Remember, O Lord, Thy tender mercies and Thy loving-kindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my trans gressions: according to Thy mercy remember Thou me for Thy goodness' sake, O Lord.

Oppressed with sin and woe,
  A burdened heart I bear;
Opposed by many a mighty foe,
  Yet will not I despair.

I feel that I am weak,
  And prone to every sin;
But Thou who giv'st to those who seek
  Wilt give me strength within.

In my Redeemer's name,
  I give myself to Thee;
And, all unworthy as I am,
  My God will welcome me.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred, and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done: and there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy on us, miserable offenders. Spare Thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Pardon Thou them that are penitent; according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy Name. Amen.

THE CRY FOR HELP.

He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

THE Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though man should rise against me, in this will I be confident. I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me.

What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee. In God I have put my trust. I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord.

O God, our help in ages past,
  Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
  And our eternal home!

A thousand ages in Thy sight
  Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
  Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
  Bears all its sons away;
They fall forgotten, as a dream
  Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
  Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
  And our eternal home!

Almighty God, the Father and Protector of all who trust in Thee, we pray Thee to be with those who are in danger of suffering or death. Be Thou their strength in every lot. Inspire them with courage and endurance, with honour and mercy, as becometh Thy true children. Amen.

O God of Mercy, we beseech Thee, look with compassion upon those who are in sickness and pain. Give them consolation and an assured faith. Of Thy great goodness, relieve them in their trials. And keep them in perpetual peace and safety through Thy loving-kindness in Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOD OUR REFUGE.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance and my God.

Jesu, lover of my soul,
  Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
  While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
  Till the storm of life be past;
Safe into the haven guide,
  O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none;
  Hangs my helpless soul on Thee:
Leave, O leave me not alone,
  Still support and comfort me!
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
  All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
  With the shadow of Thy wing!

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
  Cleanse me, Lord, from every sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
  Make and keep me pure within!
Thou of life the fountain art,
  Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
  Rise to all eternity!

O Lord God, Thou art our refuge and our hope. Thou art the merciful Father, the strength of the weak, the rest of the weary, the comfort of the sorrowful: Help us when our hearts and souls become weak and we find all to be profitless and insufficient but Thee. Do Thou strengthen, console, and guide us in the time of trouble. To Thy loving-kindness we commit ourselves and all who are dear to us. Grant that we may never displease Thee. Protect and keep us amidst all dangers: and direct us along the way of righteousness to our everlasting home. Amen.

REST IN THE LORD.

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God.

ABIDE with me! fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me!

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day,
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away,
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me!

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Come then in light before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies!
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:
In life and death, O Lord, abide with me!

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.

O Lord of all times and nations, who hast made us of one blood to dwell on all the face of the earth, Thou art our joy in the fruitful time; Thou art our hope when the land mourneth. Thou alone canst turn the hearts of men; Thou alone seest every wandering life and every grievous lot. Send forth Thy word as a fire to consume all vain imaginations, and Thy look of mercy to heal the wounds of sorrow. Bless the whole Church and brotherhood of the faithful who seek to know and obey Thee; enrich its graces and multiply its gifts, till it draw and sanctify the whole family of man. Our country also we bear upon our hearts before Thee. Our fathers, trusting in Thee, were not ashamed, but out of weakness became strong. Remembering their faith and patience, may we stand fast, and fight the good fight, and enter into their rest. Amen.

The Lord my Shepherd is,
And He my soul will keep;
He knoweth who are His
And watcheth o'er His sheep.
Away with every anxious fear;
I cannot want while He is near.

His wisdom doth provide
The pastures where I feed;
Where the still waters glide
Along the quiet mead
He leads my feet; and when I roam,
O'ertakes and brings the wanderer home.

He leads, Himself, the way
His faithful flock should take;
Them who His voice obey
His love will ne'er forsake;
And surely truth and mercy will
Attend me all my journey still.

Let me but feel Him near,
Death's gloomy pass in view
I'll walk without a fear
The shadowy valley through.
With rod and staff, my Shepherd's care
Will guide my steps and guard me there.

THE HEART OF JESUS.

If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him.

And He opened his mouth, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

O Thou, whose living word was in Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, send out Thy light and Thy truth, we beseech Thee, to enlighten our understanding, and to make clear our spiritual vision; that we may receive into a good heart the word of Jesus, and that we may be, not hearers only, but doers of the word. So may we bring forth fruit in our lives, and become more worthy to call ourselves His disciples. Amen.

THE NEARNESS OF GOD.

Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.

O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me: Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising: Thou understandest my thoughts afar off. Thou compassest my path, and my lying down; and art acquainted with all my ways.

Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit; or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, Thou art there also. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea: even there shall Thy hand lead me; and Thy right hand shall hold me.

Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.

Though, like the wanderer,
The sun gone down,
Darkness be over me,
My rest a stone;
Yet in my dreams I'd be
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.

There let the way appear,
Steps unto heaven;
All that Thou sendest me,
In mercy given;
Angels to beckon me
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.

Then with my waking thoughts,
Bright with Thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs
Bethel I'll raise;
So by my woes to be
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.

O Lord our God, ever gracious and merciful, Thou art nigh to all who call upon Thee in truth. We need not ascend up into heaven, or go down into the deep to find Thee. Thou art with us; in Thee we live and move and have our being. Help us to realise Thy nearness to us. Comfort us with the certainty of Thy presence. Reveal Thyself to our thirsting souls. Guide our faltering steps, and lead us at last safe into the heavenly land. Amen.

ENTRY INTO REST.

When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.

Be thou in readiness, so lead thy life that death may never find thee unprepared.

Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.

If thou hadst a good conscience, thou wouldst not greatly fear death. It were better to avoid sin than to fly from death.

Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more; but ye see Me: because I live, ye shall live also. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Almighty God, with whom are the issues of life and death, give strength and faith to those who go down into the valley of the shadow. Grant unto them the assurance of Thy presence. As they leave the toils and sufferings of this life, may they peacefully enter into the rest prepared for the children of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

BEREAVEMENT.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. For the former things are passed away.

The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord.

None of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,—
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet! I do not ask to see
The distant scene,—one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
Shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now,—
Lead Thou me on;
I loved the garish day; and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years!

So long Thy power hath blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on,
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

O God, our heavenly Father, unto whom we may come in every hour of darkness and grief, refresh Thy sorrowing children with the light of Thy countenance, and the consolations of Thy Holy Spirit. Be Thou now, we humbly beseech Thee, what Thou lovest to be, a God of comfort to those who mourn. Thou hast given us the blessed assurance that the sorrows of death are but for a little while, and that the grave is only as a gate of entrance to another world of life. With the joy and consolation of that hope, may we be sustained in our bereavement and look forward to a glad reunion with those we love in Thy heavenly kindgom. Amen.

IMMORTALITY.

As we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

THE souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery, and their going from us to be utter destruction. But they are in peace. For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality.

Beyond question the soul is immortal and imperishable, and our souls will truly exist in another world.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.

"For ever with the Lord!"
  Amen; so let it be!
Life from the dead is in that word,
  'Tis immortality!
Here in the body pent,
Absent from Him I roam;
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent
  A day's march nearer home.

Be Thou at my right hand,
  Then I can never fail;
Uphold Thou me, and I shall stand;
  Fight, and I must prevail.
So when my latest breath
  Shall rend the veil in twain,
By death I shall escape from death,
  And life eternal gain.

O Eternal God, through whose creative power we come into life, we thank Thee for that hope by which we look forward to everlasting life in Thy presence. Help us to rise with Christ to Thee. Comfort us with the sure belief that in the end we shall pass into that immortality where there is fulness of joy and peace for ever. Amen.

THE SPIRIT OF PEACE.

Giving diligence to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

The Second Commandment is this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Come, kingdom of our God,
  Sweet reign of light and love!
Shed peace and hope and joy abroad,
  And wisdom from above.

Over our spirits first
  Extend Thy healing reign;
There raise and quench the sacred thirst
  That never pains again.

Come, kingdom of our God!
  And make the broad earth thine;
Stretch o'er her lands and isles the rod
  That flowers with grace divine.

Soon may all tribes be blest
  With fruit from life's glad tree;
And in its shade like brothers rest,
  Sons of one family.

Come, kingdom of our God!
  And raise thy glorious throne
In worlds by the undying trod,
  Where God shall bless His own.

O God, our Creator and Preserver, who hast made of one blood all nations of men to dwell upon the face of the earth, and who didst reveal Thyself to Thy Son, the Prince of Peace; we cry to Thee in our distress, and beseech Thee to look down in mercy on the terrible conflicts which are destroying the lives and estranging the hearts of Thy children. Bring the violence and bitterness of war to an end. Breathe Thy spirit upon the nations. Give wisdom to all rulers, and hasten the time when the peoples of the world shall praise Thee in one family, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THANKSGIVING.

Giving thanks always for all things unto God, even the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MAKE a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands, serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.

Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us;
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Thine unworthy servants do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.